

## INSIDE REPORT

# DEMS PRESS BUSH ON APPEASEMENT

**T**HE Bush administration has reversed unseemly hostility to next week's visit by Lithuania's prime minister and now promises a hospitable reception because of three words from President Vytautas Landsbergis and the reaction to them by congressional Democrats.

"This is Munich," said the soft-spoken Landsbergis, comparing President Bush's acceptance of Soviet strangulation of Lithuania to the West's sellout of Czechoslovakia to Hitler in 1938.

Farfetched or not, that galvanized the administration into a private pledge to concerned House Democratic leaders. When she asks for it, Prime Minister Kazimira Prunskiene will be granted a visa "instantly."

Previously, the Lithuanians had been informed Bush wanted no sight of Prunskiene along the Potomac until the superpower summit concludes June 3. President Gorbachev might be offended by her earlier presence.

Even more disturbing to the White House, however, is



**ROWLAND EVANS & ROBERT NOVAK**

a revolt on the Democratic left, whose support he needs for his pro-Gorbachev Baltic policy.

Closet Democratic critics of the president's retreats from one promised defense after another for Lithuania want more than hospitality for the prime minister. They say Bush's policy, a product of the White House rather than the State Department, feeds Moscow's illusion that Bush will offer up ever more concessions to make the Soviet Union safe for Mikhail Gorbachev.

Congressional Democrats are stunned that voters seem to be accepting Bush's

appeasement policy. But they attribute it to the administration's success in hiding dirty little facts about what is really going on, both in Lithuania and in Moscow.

Until those facts become common knowledge, few Democrats want to attack the 74 percent popular president on his commitment to salvage Gorbachev.

House Democrats are making elaborate plans to give Prime Minister Prunskiene maximum publicity, including an appearance before congressional members of the Helsinki Commission.

House Foreign Affairs Chairman Dante Fascell (D-

leaders' meeting with Bush in the Oval Office Tuesday.

Fascell said economic sanctions against Moscow, pondered but rejected by Bush, would do nothing for Lithuania, because Europe would quickly fill the vacuum to make Gorbachev whole.

But, the chairman continued, Gorbachev's stranglehold on Lithuania might be loosened by postponing the summit — depriving him of the public-relations bonanza he needs before facing the hostile 28th Communist Party Congress.

But that reality conflicts with Bush's conviction: Since the future of the world depends on Gorbachev retaining power, nothing must be allowed to hurt him.

Other facts never recited by White House or State Department spokesmen are more emotional. The Lithuanian member of parliament attacked by Soviet troops taking over a printing plant is in critical condition from a severe concussion. He was repeatedly hit by a rifle butt, but American voters have not heard about it from U.S. officials.

## Lithuania's P.M. will now get a friendly reception

Fla.), a commission member trying to get the truth out, discussed some facts of life in the congressional